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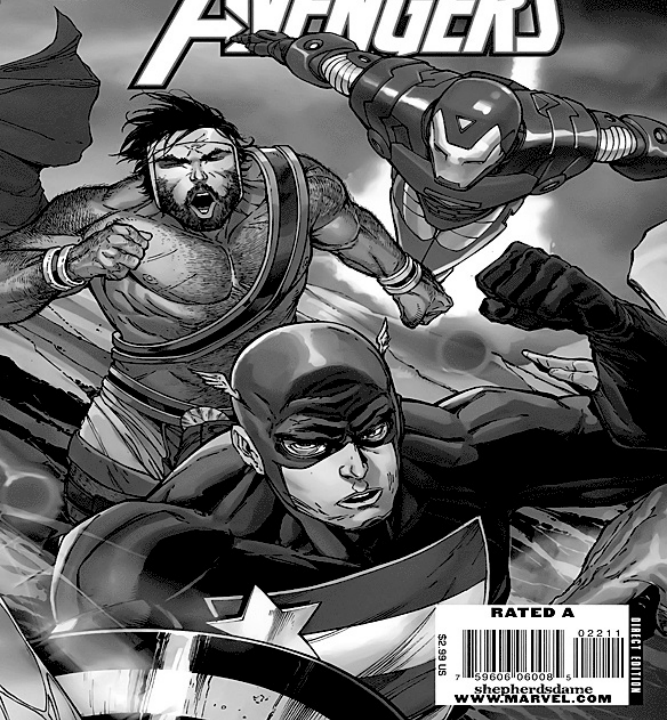
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DARK REIGN™

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS®



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DIRECT EDITION

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's Mightiest Heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born, to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS

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begin transmission

Wanda Maximoff, the Scarlet Witch, driven insane by the nature of her reality-altering hex powers and grieving the loss of her children, caused tragedy after tragedy to befall Earth's Mightiest Heroes...destroying their Mansion headquarters, killing a number of their members, and shattering the trust that bound the heroes together...until the Avengers were no more. While their banner was picked up by a group of New Avengers, the team would never again be the same.

Handed over to the custody of her father, Magneto, Wanda was manipulated by her brother Quicksilver to remake the world into a mutant paradise, in which all of their friends and allies could attain their hearts desire. But when this dream proved illusory, Wanda restored the true reality, eliminating most of the mutant powers in the world while simultaneously disappearing herself.

She has not been seen since...until now, when she revealed herself to various members of different incarnations of the Avengers -- Hank Pym, the new Wasp; Jocasta, an android cast in his ex-wife's image; Hercules and Amadeus Cho; Stature and Vision of the Young Avengers; USAgent; the Hulk; Iron Man, recently stripped of his duties as the head of S.H.I.E.L.D. They're a motley crew of heroes who must learn to work together to fight a new threat, one that could prove to damage much more than just the fabric of the Avengers: it could destroy the very universe!

end transmission!



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My name, if you must know, is Pietro Maximoff. But to most of the world I am the mutant speedster...

*QUICKSILVER!
WE'VE LOCATED
THE LAST PAGE OF
THE DARKHOLD,
MY LORD.*

*WELL?
DON'T WASTE ANY
MORE TIME ANNOUNCING
IT, KNIGHT. TELL ME!
WHERE IS IT?*

*THE
VATICAN,
SIR. IN THE
LIBRARY--*

*I'M
ON IT.*



*The last thing I remember?
I was running an errand. Literally.*



*An errand for the Knights of Windagore.
We were trying to stop Moched, the mad mystic...*

*...before he could reassemble
the Book of the Darkhold.*

BLAST IT!

*ENAMORBA!
EMMORETH!
B'AL SEC
ELIANACH!*



*We were far
from successful.*

TOO LATE
AGAIN, MAXIMOFF. THE
SACRED TEXT IS MINE
ONCE MORE.

NOW, I HAVE
ALMOST EVERYTHING
I NEED TO SUMMON THE
DARK GOD, CHTHON, BACK
TO THIS PLANE!

ALMOST
EVERYTHING?
THEN THERE'S
STILL TIME!

HERE
MOMENTS



ARROGANT
FOOL.
MOMENTS
ARE ALL I
NEED.

KNIGHTS?
WHERE TO
NOW?

BACK TO
TRANSIA, LORD
MAXIMOFF! HE'S
REAPPEARED
HERE, SIR!

AT MOUNT
WINDAGORE! HE'S
HEADING FOR THE
CARQUE HOLD!

THE
CARQUE
HOLD?

THE
CAVERNS,
SIR! DEEP
INSIDE THE
MOUNTAIN.

THE VERY
CHAMBER WHEREIN
THE GOD OF CHAOS
WROTE HIS BOOK
OF-- ARGHHE

**KRSHH!
KRAK!
GAHH!**

KNIGHT?
CAN YOU STILL
HEAR ME?

HE'S TOO
POWERFUL, MY
LORD! HELP US!
WE CAN'T--
CAN'T--

In the past few years, I've failed far too many people: my fellow mutants, the Inhumans, the Avengers, my sister...

When the Knights reached out to me, I didn't just welcome it. I saw it as a chance for redemption.

Like myself, they were born at Windagore. They were the last family I hadn't let down...

...until that day.

DEAD?
THEY'RE
ALL DEAD?
HOW COULD
THEY--

PLEASE,
THEY'VE BEEN
DEAD FOR
HOURS.

"HELP US,
QUICKSILVER!
HE'S TOO
POWERFUL!
ARGH!"
HA HA!

PIETRO,
MY DEAR BOY.
WHY DID YOU
COME BACK?

BECAUSE
THAT WAS THE PLAN,
BOVA. I SAID I HAD
ALMOST EVERYTHING
I NEEDED.

DESTINY?

WHAT?
YOU CAN'T
MEAN--

YES. WORDS ALONE
CANNOT SUMMON
CHTHON.

HE NEEDS
A VESSEL.

A CHILD OF
MAGDA, ONE WHO
ENTERED THIS CAVE
OF THEIR OWN FREE
WILL. WELCOME TO
YOUR FINAL FAILURE,
PIETRO MAXIMOFF:
THE END OF THE
WORLD.

That's all I remember.
So I have to know...

...what happened next? Where am I?

WHAT IS
HULK DOING HERE?
TELL ME!

OR
**HULK WILL
SMASH!!**

TRANSIA. NOW.

HULK,
EVERYONE,
PLEASE, CALM
DOWN.

PYM, WHAT
IN GOD'S NAME IS
GOIN' ON?!



CASSIE,
WAIT!

WAIT
NOTHING!
THAT'S THE
SCARLET WITCH!
SHE KILLED
MY DAD!

MADAME
STATUERE...

DR. BANNER,
IT'S ME, AMADEUS.
YOUR FRIEND.
REMEMBER?

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST

PART 2
OF 3

The Writing on the Wall

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SHE'S NOT HERE.
THAT'S HER
ASTRAL FORM.

...OH.

I'VE HAD
ENOUGH
OF THIS!
HERCULES!
AMADEUS
CHO!

YOU'RE BOTH
FUGITIVES FROM
THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT--AND
I'M BRINGING
YOU IN!

Excuse me?
USAgent?
Captain Walker?
Perhaps this isn't
the best time
for--

BRAINLESS
DOLT! ARE
YOU MAD?!

--thisSZZZ

KRANG

DUMB
ROBOT! OUT OF
HULK'S WAY!

ZZKRXXZ-

JOCASTA!

STOP!
ALL OF YOU
STOP, RIGHT
NOW!

DR. PYM?
IS SHE GONNA
BE...?

I SAID
STOP!

WAK

AYE,
VERY WELL,
PYM, BUT...



...WHAT OF THE HULK?

HULK WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, BEARD MAN. WITH ANY OF YOU!



PYM, I BROUGHT HIM FOR A REASON.

HE'S THE STRONGEST ONE HERE AND YOU'RE LETTING HIM GO?

LEAVE HIM.



THIS IS THE ARMY YOU WERE AFRAID OF?

BUT, CHTHON... MY LORD, THE SCARLET WITCH IS AMONG THEM.

AN ASTRAL PROJECTION. THE SHADOW OF A BEING WHO IS STILL VERY MUCH BENEATH ME.

THESE AVENGERS... LAST WE MET, THEY WERE ORGANIZED, UNITED IN CAUSE AND PURPOSE. BUT THIS MOTLEY BAND? THEY'RE PURE CHAOS.



HOW ENTERTAINING. BUT ENOUGH DISTRACTIONS.

THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE. A WORLD TO UNRAVEL. AND A REALITY TO DESTROY.

SO IT BEGINS.
COME ALONG,
BOVA.

WHILE OUR
LORD CHTHON FEARS
NOT THE SUDDEN
ARRIVAL OF THESE...
CHAMPIONS...

...I WOULD
RATHER BE GOOD
AND DONE WITH THEM.
COME, WE MUST
PREPARE.

YES,
BOVA.
I KNOW.



HMM.



VISION?
JONAS, DID
YOU SEE...?

YES, CASSIE.
DR. PYM, THE
SCARLET
WITCH HAS
GONE.



OH THIS'S JUST GREAT!
WE STILL HAVE NO
IDEA WHAT'S CAUSING
THE CHAOS CASCADE,
AND WE'RE ALREADY
DOWN THREE
AVENGERS!

C'MON, DOCTOR!
WE HAVE TO DO
SOMETHING! THE
WORLD'S AT
STAKE HERE!

TELL YOU
WHAT, KID. YOU WORRY
ABOUT YOUR WORLD.
I'LL WORRY ABOUT MINE.

FOR ONE ENTIRE
DAY, THE BOOK OF
THE DARKHOLD
WAS READ ALOUD...

...AND THE
CHAOS CASCADE
SPREAD ACROSS
THE EARTH.

THIS IS DIFFERENT.

CHUCK
TWO BLEED
CTH

THIS IS A MAD GOD.

SCARRING THE
GROUND IN HIS WAKE.

REWRITING REALITY
IN HIS NAME.

AND REMAKING
EVERYTHING IN
HIS OWN IMAGE.



THE EFFECTS
ARE NO LONGER
RANDOM.

CHUCK?
THEY'RE
GTA

THEY'RE
UNIFORM.



WITH THE ENTIRE WORLD
TRANSFORMING...



...INTO LIVING,
BREATHING CHAOS.



THERE IS NO SAFE
HAVEN, AND WHEN
HE'S DONE...

...NO CORNER
WILL REMAIN
UNTOUCHED,
SAVE ONE...



WUNDAGORE.
FINAL APPROACH.
STARK MACRO
BOOSTERS:
CYCLING DOWN.

PATCH IN
SATELLITE UPDATE.
INTERESTING...

A PATTERN'S
EMERGING.
SOME KIND OF
RECURRING
FRACTAL?



IF I DIDN'T KNOW ANY
BETTER, I'D SAY IT'S
TAKING ON THE FORM
OF A SCHEMATIC...

DISPLAY AN UPDATE
EVERY FIVE MINUTES.



IRON MAN?
SO STARK HAS
MADE IT HERE
AS WELL.

PERHAPS I
WAS TOO HASTY
IN CHOOSING
P.Y.M. AS MY
CHAMPION?

FINE.
TWO BIRDS
WITH ONE
STONE.



FOR STARK,
A TEST, AND FOR
THE HULK...



"...A SHINY
BAUBLE TO GET
HIS ATTENTION."



WHAT?
A ROCKET.
AND THE
METAL MAN...
STARK.

THE NAME TRIGGERS
MEMORIES IN THE
CREATURE'S CLOUDED
MIND.

STARK WAS ONE
OF THOSE
RESPONSIBLE...



...FOR
EXILING THE
HULK TO
THE PLANET
SAKAAR...

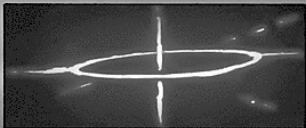
AND FOR KILLING
HIS BRIDE...

...CAIERA...

RWARR



AH.
THAT MIGHT'VE
WORKED A LITTLE
TOO WELL.



FIRST THINGS FIRST,
HAVE TO FIGURE OUT
WHO'S BEHIND THIS.

WITH WUNDERGORE
INVOLVED, IT
COULD BE ANYONE
FROM THE HIGH
EVOLUTIONARY TO
CYPHON, MODRED,
PUPPET MASTER,
DJANGO
MAXIMOFF, OR...

OH NO.

KTANNG

STARK!
HULK IS GOING
TO CRUSH YOU,
METAL MAN!

CRUSH YOU
UNTIL YOU CAN
NEVER HURT
HULK AGAIN!



KTAM
AGAIN? BWHH!
I'D SETTLE FOR
RIGHT NOW.



OF ALL THE
TIMES NOT TO
HAVE EXTREMIS
TECH!

**ALL
SYSTEMS!
BRACE FOR
IMPACT!**

A FEW MILES
TO THE EAST.

Ram's Head Inn

FEARS UP,
FRITZ. YESTERDAY
THIS WAS YOUR PLACE.
TOMORROW, GOD WILLING,
IT'LL BE YOURS AGAIN.
BUT RIGHT NOW--

--THIS'S
OUR TEMPORARY
AVENGERS HQ.
GOT THAT?

OF--OF
COURSE.

GOOD.
NOW WHAT SAY
YOU RUSTLE UP
SOME PROVISIONS
FOR ME AND MY
MEN?

IS THIS HOW
AVENGERS COMFORT
THEMSELVES NOW?
I SHOULD--

YOU
SHOULD TAKE
IT EASY, HERC.
OR AT THE RATE
WE'RE GOING,
PRETTY SOON
IT'LL BE DOWN
TO THE TWO
OF US.

DON'T
WORRY, J.
I BROUGHT A
WORKSTATION WITH
ME. ONCE IT'S
RE-ENLARGED,
I'LL HAVE YOU
FIXED UP IN
NO TIME.

...ALL I'M SAYING IS, THE SCARLET
WITCH SHOWS UP, SOMEONE WHO'S
BEEN CLINICALLY *INSANE*...

...SOMEONE WHO CAN REWRITE
REALITY, AND IT'S LIKE WE'RE ALL
BEING LED BY THE NOSE...

THE GIRL IS RIGHT.
THOSE MAXIMOFFS
HAVE BEEN NOTHING
BUT *TROUBLE*.

MY FRIEDA,
SHE SAW ONE OF
THEM HEADING INTO
THE DARGUE HOLD
EARLIER.

MARK MY WORDS.
BEST TO STAY
CLEAR OF THEM
ALTOGETHER.

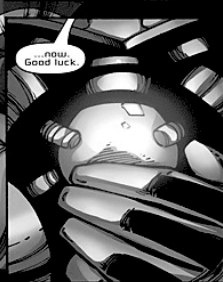
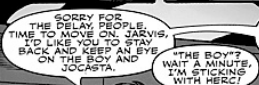
THE DARKHOLD?
ACCORDING TO MY
DAD, THAT'S A
BOOK, THE UNHOLY
GRIMOIRE OF ALL
CHAOS MAGIC.

NO, THE
DARGUE HOLD.
THAT'S WHAT WE CALL
THE CAVERNS BELOW
WUNDAGORE.

OH COME
ON! LED BY
THE NOSE.
TELL ME
SOMEBODY
ELSE SEES
THIS!

I'LL
INFORM
MASTER
HANK...

...BUT NO
ONE'S ASKING WHY!
WHY SHOULD WE DO
WHAT SHE WANTS
US TO DO?





HULK, LISTEN TO ME!
WE DON'T HAVE TIME
FOR THIS!

THERE'S A GREATER
FORCE AT WORK HERE!



YES, THERE IS A
GREATER FORCE
HERE.



THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I-GRAH!

"AND HERE I
THOUGHT YOU
WERE THE
GUY WITH ALL
THE BRAINS..."



SO TELL ME... WHY ARE WE JUST WALTZING IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR? WHERE'S THE STRATEGY IN THAT?

JOHN, IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD. THERE'S NO TIME FOR SUBTLETY.

ALL RIGHT. LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FINALLY SHOWING SOME SACK, P.Y.M.



MR SEMI-AUTOMATIC. WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?

IT FOCUSES MY BIO-ENERGY INTO A POWERFUL STUN-BEAM.

STUN-BEAM? NO TIME FOR SUBTLETY, MY \$@#.

THE STINGER.



INTERESTING.

WHAT IS IT, VISION?

THESE CARVINGS, THEY DON'T MATCH ANY OF THE LANGUAGES IN MY FILES.

THEN IT'S A PITY WE LEFT CHO BEHIND. HE'D HAVE DECIPHERED THESE BY NOW.

YES, A PITY. THEN YOU WOULD HAVE READ THE WARNINGS...



...OF WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO ENTER THE DARGUE HOLD OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

ENAMORATH, EMMORETH! B'aal SET ELIANATH!

THE WALLS, AVENGERS. STAY AWAY FROM THE WALLS!

BOVA,
DON'T MAKE
ME REGRET
SPARING
YOU.

NOW WATCH,
AS THESE
NEW KNIGHTS
OF WUNDAGORE
FALL JUST LIKE
THE LAST.

MODRED!
AVENGERS, HE'S
YOUR TARGET.
QUICK, RIDE OF
THUMB...

...WHEN
YOU'RE UP AGAINST
MAGIC, TAKE OUT
THE SPELL-CASTER.
YOU TAKE OUT
THE SPELL.

GOTCHA.
CUT OFF THE
HEAD AND THE
BODY DIES.

RIGHT.
TELL THAT TO
THE LERNEAN
HYDRA.

OW!
JONAS? CAN
YOU GET
THROUGH?

NO. FOR SOME
REASON I CAN'T
PHASE THROUGH
THESE CREATURES.

MAGIC.

BLAM!

ZZZEE

SO,
DR. STUN-BEAM,
ANY MORE BRIGHT
IDEAS?

I'M
WORKING
ON IT.



HALF A WORLD AWAY.

Wundagore?

WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO WUNDAGORE?!

UNCLE HANK?!

I FELT IT TOO, CASSIE. WHATEVER IT WAS, WE'LL DEAL WITH IT LATER.

EVERYONE CONCENTRATE ON THE MARKINGS. THAT MUST BE WHAT'S ANIMATING THEM...

...LIKE SYMBOLS ON A GOLEM, OR CODE FOR A PRIMITIVE FORM OF ANDROID.

ZZZZZZ

A MOST INTRIGUING THEORY, DOCTOR.

PROW

HA! MAGIC AS SCIENCE, EH, PYMT

CLEVER MAN. SHAME HE DOESN'T SPEAK THE LANGUAGE.

ARE YOU SURE?

I AM, ANSWER ME IF YOU CAN.





TO BE CONTINUED...

NEW
AVENGERS
THE REUNION
Exclusive Preview



Jim McCann • David López

EVER GET THE
FEELINGS YOU
HAVE NO IDEA
WHERE YOU ARE?

HOSPITAL

YOU KNOW WHERE
YOU'VE BEEN, YOU
KNOW WHERE YOU
CAME FROM.

FOR A WHILE YOU THINK
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'LL
BE DOING FOR THE
REST OF YOUR LIFE.

AND THEN...BAM!

IT'S FUNNY HOW
SOMEONE, OR
SOMETHING, CAN
JUST COME IN...

...AND IN AN INSTANT,
TAKE AWAY THE LIFE YOU
THOUGHT WAS YOURS.

BEEP BEEP BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE



STATUS?

VITALS
APPEAR TO BE
NORMAL. COULD BE
NOTHING, BRINGING
HER DOWN TO
EXAMINING TO
MAKE SURE.

THE PATIENT
WILL BE FINE.

THEY'LL TAKE HER BACK
TO HER ROOM BY THE
TIME VISITING HOURS
START, AND NONE OF
HER FAMILY WILL EVEN
KNOW SHE WAS GONE.

LUCKY
HER.



I'VE BEEN MANY
THINGS IN MY
LIFE: BIOLOGIST
BOBBY MORSE,
S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT
19, AND THE
AVENGERS NAMED
MOCKINGBIRD.

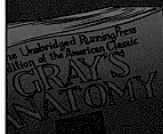


AND THEN, I GOT
ABDUCTED BY
LITTLE GREEN
MEN. LITERALLY.

AN ALIEN RACE KNOWN AS THE
SKRULLS TOOK ME. ONE MINUTE
I WAS FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THE
WEST COAST AVENGERS, AND THE
NEXT THING I KNEW...I WASN'T.

I WAS GONE. FOR A LONG
TIME, REPLACED BY A LOOK-
ALIKE SKRULL TRAINED TO
IMPERSONATE ME.

17



KNOW THE BEST THING
ABOUT SPENDING YEARS
ON A PLANET OF SHAPE-
SHIFTING ALIENS? YOU
PICK UP A THING OR TWO...



NEW AVENGERS: THE REUNION THE LADY VANISHES



ISSUE #1 ON SALE IN MARCH

SHE IS THEIR ONLY HOPE

X-FORCE & CABLE

MESSIAH WAR

THE WAR FOR MUTANKIND'S FUTURE BEGINS!

**X-FORCE/CABLE: MESSIAH WAR ONE-SHOT
CABLE #13-#15 • X-FORCE #14-#16**

**MARCH
2009**



WHO IS HUNTING
THE ASSASSIN?



DARK REIGN
ELEKTRA

Zeb Wells • Clay Mann
Covers by Lee Bermejo
Variant Cover by Clay Mann

70
YEARS
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MARCH
2009

**AND THERE SHALL BE A NEW
SORCERER SUPREME**



**MARCH
2009**

**THE NEW
AVENGERS #51**

**BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS
BILLY TAN • CHRIS BACHALO**

**70
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